



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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January 26, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Accountability Workbook Amendment for 2008-09

When No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was passed states submitted a Consolidated State Plan for implementation and accountability as required. The Accountability Workbook is the annual negotiation of the details of the state's plan. Department staff identifies issues that need modification and respond to requests from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) to update the Workbook.

This year USED asked states to limit amendment requests and moved up the deadline for submission to January 15, 2009. Only one amendment was identified and submitted – a request to allow a five year cohort to be used for graduation rates in addition to the four year cohort already approved. The State Board of Education has given strong support to this request in past years.

The amendment is attached.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Accountability Workbook Amendment for 2008-09 as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 26, 2009.

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## **Michigan Accountability Workbook Amendment for 2008-09**

### **Section 7.1 What is the State definition for the public high school graduation rate?**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) used an adjusted four-year cohort graduation rate, approved by the U. S. Department of Education, for the first time for AYP determinations in school year 2007-08. With the release of new Title I regulations and guidance, the U. S. Department of Education (USED) has provided an important element of flexibility for the use of cohort graduation rates – extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates. We are pleased to see this innovation and propose using a five-year extended cohort for the 2007-08 school year which we will be reporting on the school report cards in August 2009.

Michigan specifies the minimum required credits for high school graduation for a “regular diploma” (See details: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/FAQ\\_-\\_Entire\\_Document\\_12.07\\_217841\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/FAQ_-_Entire_Document_12.07_217841_7.pdf)). For most students the “standard number of years” for graduation will be four years or less, and Michigan will use and report the four-year cohort graduation rate using the formula already approved by USED.

For some students the “standard number of years” for graduation may be five years or more if they are entering ninth grade at a deficit due to health issues, disabilities, language barriers, mandatory expulsion, migratory families and other issues. High schools work hard to provide the supports needed to allow students to graduate with the Michigan Merit diploma even though it takes them longer than four years to complete. The use of an extended-year cohort will accommodate the special needs of those students and will allow schools to count them as successes.

The five-year extended cohort rate will be calculated separately from the four-year cohort graduation rate.

#### ***How the extended-year adjusted cohort will be used for AYP in SY 2008-09***

The four-year cohort already approved by USED will be calculated for the class of 2008. If the high school does not meet the 80% graduation rate goal, the Improvement target will be calculated using the currently approved improvement target of 10%. If the high school does not meet the graduation goal or the improvement target, the five-year extended cohort rate will be calculated to see if the school meets or exceeds the goal of 80%.

#### **Five-year adjusted cohort formula:**

Numerator equals the numerator in the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, plus the number of students from the cohort who earned a regular (Michigan Merit) high school diploma in five years.

Denominator equals the denominator in the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, plus students who transfer into the cohort during the fifth year, minus students who are removed from the cohort during the fifth year.

The table below represents an analysis of graduation rate data for the Class of 2007 four-year cohort. The table includes data for high schools at the 10<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Student Group	Statewide Four-Year On-Time Grad Rate Class of 2007	Number of Students in Class of 2007 Cohort	Number of Schools with 30+ in cohort	By Percentile			Number of Schools With Grad Rate Below 80% Target	Percent of Schools With Grad Rate Below 80% Target
				10	50	90		
All Students	75.5%	140,353	735	28.7%	88.4%	98.1%	226	30.7%
African American or Black	58.4%	28,586	186	15.5%	77.3%	92.9%	93	56.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	66.2%	1,348	2				0	0.0%
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	85.2%	3,127	15	84.0%	98.1%	100.0%	1	6.7%
Hispanic or Latino	57.8%	5,031	22	36.2%	81.7%	93.8%	18	81.8%
White	81.6%	101,583	598	36.1%	90.7%	98.7%	122	20.4%
Multiracial	69.1%	698	1				0	0.0%
Limited English Proficient	69.7%	2,444	13	43.6%	77.5%	94.2%	9	69.2%
Students with Disabilities	61.0%	14,580	133	48.5%	73.9%	87.7%	91	68.4%
Economically Disadvantaged	57.0%	25,579	200	32.2%	72.1%	89.2%	132	66.0%
Migratory Students	57.0%	135	0					
Female	80.1%	68,423	564	65.6%	92.3%	97.9%	106	18.8%
Male	71.1%	71,930	587	40.3%	87.0%	95.2%	191	32.5%

Unduplicated count of 311 schools (54.0% of all schools) have a graduation rate (school wide or subgroup) below the 80% target.